

The Covenant Newsletter



*“Each season has its own wonder, its own special place,
and purpose in the pattern of creation.” - Anonymous*

January 2011

Covenant Presbyterian Church
471 Parkway Avenue
Trenton, New Jersey 08618
609.989.8282
www.CovenantChurchTrenton.org

INSIDE

Minister's Message	3	NAMI Parent Classes	10
To Reach the Pastor	4	Van Schedule	10
Guest Preacher	5	TASK	11
Session Notes	6	TASK Contribution	12
Officer Training	6	Food for Friends	12
Spiritual Growth	7	What the Star Saw	13
Will the Real . . .	8	Personal Notes	13
Jump In and Read	9	ID Cards	14
Healing and Wholeness	9	January Birthdays	15



Covenant Online . . .

If you haven't checked out our website lately, click on www.CovenantChurchTrenton.org to see what you have been missing. Here's a sampling of what you'll find:

- ▶ Our new Ministry of Health.
- ▶ Info about the new book for the book club.
- ▶ Info about our new ID card program.
- ▶ Letters from and news about our missionaries.
- ▶ Late-breaking church news.
- ▶ Downloadable copies of various documents and forms.
- ▶ News about the Good News Choir.
- ▶ Photos of past church events.
- ▶ Photos of recently baptized babies.
- ▶ Links to other websites of interest.



Minister's Message

Revisiting a New Year's resolution

A year ago, I wrote in this space that the New Year's resolution for 2010 at Covenant would be

to intentionally live up to our Mission Statement. I proposed that in the coming two years, we would intentionally approach every decision, however tiny it might be, with the question: Does this help us to "Encourage a diverse worship family"?

Concretely, this meant that we asked: What staff person to hire? Should the person be intentionally selected to fit a model of diverse leadership? What ushers to put at the door? What music to choose in worship? What food to serve at church-wide meals? What books to read? What guest preacher to invite? Outreach in the neighborhood ought to be intentionally multi-cultural, multi-racial; otherwise, new life and diversity will not happen. It ought to become the very nature of our church's life, ministry and outreach.

Recently, at the halfway point, I went over our achievements with our elders, deacons, and staff. The list was encouraging. Let me mention just a few highlights: the delightful Irish Tea; praise dancers during worship; another blessed and diverse Vacation Bible School week; a Commitment Ceremony; outreach at Community Fest; the wonderful Thanksgiving Dinner "Entertaining Angels"; the Community ID card; the Health Ministry. The Trenton Children's Chorus found its home at Covenant, leading to a joint Advent Lessons and Carols service led by Derek Cressman, our new Minister of Music. And all these are just the new initiatives. We approached the continuing ministries with a deeper awareness of the need to be more diverse, as well.

Looking back at our new year's resolution, we are reminded of the words of the apostle Paul in 1 Thessalonians 5:11:

*"Therefore **encourage** one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing."*

I charged the leaders, and all of us, to continue to encourage one another. We should ask: How can I support new and continuing ministries? How can I help the youth group? How can I support new and old ministries? Evaluating in a constructive way will be key.

At the meeting, I suggested Five E's of Encouragement:

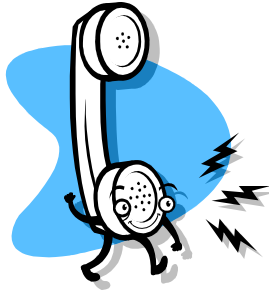
- ▶ Evangelism
- ▶ Education
- ▶ Excellence
- ▶ Excitement
- ▶ Enjoyment

Each of these concepts I will discuss in the coming months. The gathered leaders quickly added to the list with more E's: Empowerment, Embracing, Evolving, Environment, Extraordinary, Energy.

May God bless our exciting and inspirational journey with joy and encouragement in 2011.

Jan Willem

The Rev. Jan Willem van der Werff.



How to Reach the Pastor

If you have a pastoral concern, or want to talk to the pastor, the Rev. Jan Willem van der Werff, please call 609.989.8282 or e-mail him at jwvanderwerff@comcast.net (Monday is his day off.)



**Martin Luther King
Sunday
Guest Preacher**

Sunday, January 16

The Rev. Luke A. Powery will preach the sermon at Covenant Church on Sunday, Jan. 16, in celebration of the birthday of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Rev. Powery is the Perry and Georgia Engle assistant professor of homiletics at Princeton Theological Seminary. He earned his M.Div. degree from Princeton Seminary and his Th.D. degree through Emmanuel College, University of Toronto, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. His dissertation was titled "The Holy Spirit and African-American Preaching."

His academic interests are located at the intersection of pneumatology, preaching, worship, speech performance studies and culture, particularly expressions of the African diaspora. His courses include an exploration of the relationship between the Holy Spirit and preaching, and the connection between corporate worship practices and social witness in the world.

A member of the Academy of Homiletics and the American Academy of Religion, Rev. Powery was nurtured in the Holiness-Pentecostal tradition, ordained by the Progressive National Baptist Convention, and has served in an ecumenical capacity in churches in Switzerland, Canada and the United States.

Session Notes

At its December 21 meeting the Session:

- ▶ Met with the Board of Deacons and reviewed its ministries.
- ▶ Discussed the scheduled leadership and officer training sessions to be sponsored by the Presbytery of New Brunswick January 22.
- ▶ Discussed the February 8 meeting of the Presbytery, which Covenant Church will host.
- ▶ Heard a report on the church's new program to provide identification cards for individuals who need them.
- ▶ Was told that each commission will be asked to cut 10 percent from the amounts in its 2010 budget because of a shortfall in anticipated income.
- ▶ Heard Rev. van der Werff's update on his presentation a year ago asking all Covenant members to intentionally live with the church's Mission Statement.

Leadership and Officer Training Day

"Equipping the Saints"

Saturday, January 22, 2011

8:30am – 2:30pm

Princeton Theological Seminary



Please join us for workshops and training sessions that will inspire and equip you for ministry.

Options will be available for clergy, church officers, and volunteers. Newly elected officers are especially urged to attend. There is no cost to attend. Lunch will be available at the Seminary cafeteria for \$10. For more information visit their site <http://www3.ptsem.edu/offices/coned/index.aspx?id=3459>



Spiritual Growth

Wednesday, January 12, 7 p.m.

The Book Study group is starting a new book, *An Altar in the World*, by Barbara Brown Taylor, and is continuing to read and discuss *A New Kind of Christianity* by Brian D. McLaren. Please read the first two chapters of the new book, and pages 159-190 of the McLaren book.

Come and enjoy an interesting discussion of these two important books. Bring a friend! (For more information on this group, see page 9.)

Sunday, January 16, 7:45 a.m.

The men of Covenant will meet in the Drake Room for breakfast and discussion. All men are invited to come and bring a friend.

Tuesday, January 18, 1 p.m.

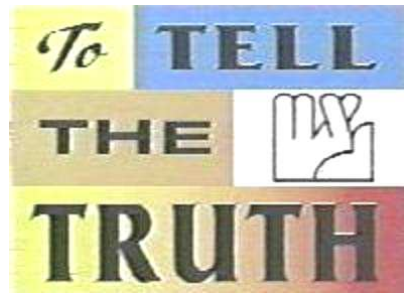
The women's Bible study group will begin a new study of the book of Revelation. Join us in the Lounge for this new and exciting study. Bring a friend!

Wednesday, January 19, 7 p.m.

The Circle of Sisters will meet in the Lounge. Call Jane Politi at 609.989.8282 for information about child care. All are welcome! Bring a friend!

Wednesday, January 26, 7 p.m.

The Book Study group will continue to read and discuss *An Altar in the World* and *A New Kind of Christianity*. Come and enjoy an interesting discussion of these two important books. Bring a friend!



**“Will the real _____
PLEASE STAND UP?”**

*January 16, 2011
after worship
Fellowship Hall*

Do you remember the old TV show *To Tell the Truth* that ran from 1956 to 1961 on national television?

Adult Education is arranging to have an updated version of the series for us to play during coffee hour in Fellowship Hall. It sounds like fun, doesn't it?

Put it on your calendar as a must for Sunday, January 16. See you there!

George and His Crew Do It Again!

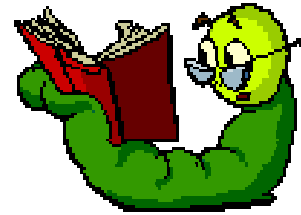
The Blizzard of 2010 crippled most of the area. Mail was not delivered, stores were closed, and meetings were cancelled. But Covenant did business as usual thanks to George McClain, Donovan Hamilton and John Murray.

The blizzard dumped over 18 inches of snow on the Trenton/Ewing area on Sunday, December 26. By Monday morning our parking lot was cleared by 6am—in time for the day care center to open!

Thank you so much George, John and Donovan. Your consistent work is impressive and appreciated by all of us.



Jump In and Read!



If you are not already a part of Covenant's Spiritual Book Group, now is a good time to jump in! The group meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7 p.m. in the Lounge. Our next meeting is on January 12.

We're currently reading *A New Kind of Christianity*, by Brian D. McLaren, and are about to start on *An Altar in the World*, by Barbara Brown Taylor.

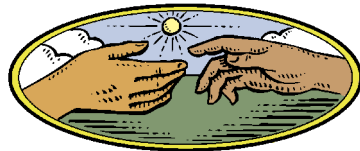
Books on our future reading list include:

The Exquisite Risk: Daring to Live an Authentic Life (paperback), by Mark Nepo.

Jesus, Interrupted: Revealing the Hidden Contradictions in the Bible (And Why We Don't Know About Them), by Bart D. Ehrman.

The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming (paperback), by Henri J. M. Nouwen.

Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace ... One School at a Time, by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin.



Healing and Wholeness Service

A service of Prayer for Healing and Wholeness will be held in the chapel following the congregational meeting after the worship service on Sunday, January 2. This is a brief service of music, readings and prayer for those who are experiencing difficulties of any kind. Please contact the Rev. Schluter at schluter@rider.edu

NAMI Mercer Class for Parents

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Mercer is offering a free class for parents or caregivers of children or adolescents (ages 2 to 18) with challenging behaviors. These can include mental health issues, ADHD, autism, Tourette's, etc.

The free six-course series of NAMI Basics classes will be taught by trained volunteer parents who have been there and want to share their knowledge and support other families. Topics to be covered will include the trauma of mental illness for the child and family, the biology of mental illness, treatment options and the latest medical research, and an overview of the systems involved in caring for children and teens.

Classes will be held from 7 to 9:30 p.m. on Wednesdays from January 19 through March 2 at the NAMI Mercer offices, 3371 Brunswick Pike, Suite 124, in Lawrence Township. Registration is required. For more information or to register, call 609.799.8994.

We Get You to the Church On Time!



Need A Ride?

Do you want to attend church on Sundays but have no transportation? Please call the church office or the scheduled driver and arrangements will be made for you to be taken to church and

then taken home. Below is the schedule for January and February van drivers.

Jan. 2	Jeff	Feb. 6	Jeff
Jan. 9	Dave	Feb. 13	Mickey
Jan. 16	Mickey	Feb. 20	Joyce
Jan. 23	Joyce	Feb. 27	Dave
Jan. 30	Dave		

Serving at TASK Thursday, January 27



The **Trenton Area Soup Kitchen** volunteers will be serving dinner on Thursday, January 27.

We had more volunteers than we could use on December 23, and not all of them were able to serve. In fact, several of our regulars took the month off, since they were not needed.

HOWEVER. The soup kitchen has a continuing need for volunteers, and if we have twice as many as we need, we will see if we can make arrangements to serve twice a month. (Each volunteer would serve only once each month.) If you are interested, please call Donna Amick and let her know when would be the best time for you to serve. Young people are also welcome; you must be 13 or older.

We meet in the church parking lot at 2:45 p.m. and Dave Kulp drives us in the van from there to the soup kitchen and back. We get back around 5:30. Dave has already said that he is willing to drive twice a month.

If it would be more convenient for you to drive to TASK and meet us there, you don't have to go on the van.

Everybody who takes part in this ministry wants to do it again. Try it! You'll be glad you did.

Contribution to TASK

Fred Romanowsky, president of the Central Jersey Soccer Referee association, and a member of Covenant reports that the organization donated turkeys to the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen before Thanksgiving 2010 and that some of the officials made personal contributions as well. Fred and a fellow official, Richard Conte, visited TASK after the holidays to see the operation.



Food for Friends *Sunday, January 30*

Our **Food for Friends** collection on January 30 will go to the food pantry at **Mount Carmel Guild**. Don't forget to buy one non-perishable item for the food collection every time you go to the grocery store! If you would prefer to make a monetary gift, write a check to the Mount Carmel Guild, put it in an envelope marked "Food for Friends," and place it in the collection plate. (Food pantries are always happy to receive money.)

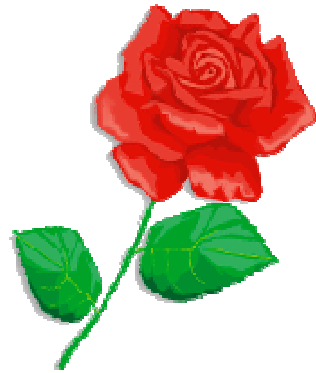
If you will not be in church that Sunday and would like to contribute grocery items, leave your groceries at the church office marked "Food for Friends," and we'll see that they are included in the collection.



What the Star Saw!

A million thanks for all your support to make Covenant's 2010 annual Christmas pageant a huge success... next year Broadway!

*Jane Politi,
Children & Adult Educational Ministries*



Personal Notes

Jessie and the Youth Carolers:

Thank you to the youth carolers for their lovely songs and Christmas wreath. It was the nicest Christmas gift I ever received. It is what the Spirit of Christmas is all about and I thank you. God bless all of you.

Nancy Mooney

Covenant Friends,

Thank you to everyone for sending my mom, Lois Wagner, birthday cards. I'd like to give a special thank-you to Angie Leammann, Betty Schnerr, Pat Romanowsky and Edith Multop for visiting my mom. I greatly appreciate it. Thank you so much.

Elaine Marxer, Lois' daughter

**ARE YOU A RESIDENT OF THE MERCER COUNTY AREA?
THEN GET**

**THE COMMUNITY ID CARD
1st and 3rd THURSDAY of every month
COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
471 Parkway Avenue, Trenton**

**SHOW PROOF OF IDENTITY AND PROOF OF DOMICILE
PAY FEE: \$10 ADULT, \$5 YOUTH UNDER 18**

REQUIREMENTS

WHAT YOU NEED TO PROVE IDENTITY

- | | | |
|---|--------|--|
| <u>ONE (1) of the following;</u> | OR Two | <u>(2) of the following:</u> |
| Passport (any country) | | Birth certificate (any country) |
| U.S. Driver license (NJ or other state) | | Drivers license from country of origin |
| Consular ID Card | | Gov't or Voter's ID card (any country) |
| NJ or Mercer County photo ID. | | Bank or school photo ID |
| Permanent Resident card (Green Card) | | Social Security Card |
| U.S. Work Authorization Card | | Letter from a sponsoring organization |
| Library Card | | |

WHAT YOU NEED TO PROVE YOUR DOMICILE

**Electric bill, phone bill, mortgage statement, (no cell phone bill)
Bank or financial account statement
Copy of a lease or tax bill
Any other bill or official letter addressed to your name and address**

This card is issued by the One Community Coalition, and is not an official government ID, but is endorsed by the Ewing, Plainsboro, Princeton Borough, Princeton Township, Trenton, and West Windsor Police Departments, and the Mercer County Sheriff and Prosecutor's Office. The coalition will not share or retain any personal data from the applicants. All personal information will be deleted once the card is issued.

**For more information call: Covenant Presbyterian Church
(609) 989-8282**

or the Latin American Legal Defense and Education Fund (LALDEF)

1-877-452-5333 14 www.LALDEF.org

January Birthdays 2011



1	Dwight Stein	15	Carol Martin
2	Elayne Eberhardt		Peter Williams
	Lee Metzgar	16	AnneMarie Luijendijk
	Julia Miner	18	Virginia Ryan
4	Amy Romanowsky	19	Sandra Gwin
5	Stephan Konopka	22	Karl A. Christiansen
6	Rebecca Ulrich	25	Pauline Williams
8	Wilfred Glazebrook	27	Karen Drake-Silvestri
9	Elizabeth Schnerr	28	Lorraine Metzgar
12	Preston Konopka	29	Trudy Dougherty
14	Season Bonner		Beverly Weber

Deadline for the February newsletter is **Thursday, January 20**. Submissions received after the deadline will not get into the newsletter. Submissions may be dropped off, mailed or e-mailed to the church office.

*The Annual Meeting of
Covenant Presbyterian Church
will be held on
Sunday, January 30, 2010*

*Congregational
Meeting*



*Commission/Committee Annual Reports
are due by January 14, 2011
Each commission/committee chair
will receive a copy of their 2009 report
by January 7 or you may call Rae at 609.989.8282
or email her at 471covenantrae@comcast.net
if you would like to receive your report earlier.*

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
471 Parkway Avenue
Trenton NJ 08618**

Pastor: Rev. Jan Willem van der Werff
Parish Associate: Rev. Dr. Nancy H. Schluter
Administrative Assistant: Rae Richardson
Newsletter: Donna & George Amick